DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944.

Public Health Offices,  
St. Peter's Close,  
Bocking, Braintree.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

September, 1945.

I have the honour to present to you a short report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Dunmow Rural District for the Year 1944. This review follows the same lines as those submitted since the outbreak of war.

The health of the District remains good, and there has been no serious epidemic of Infectious Disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There have been no changes in the general health services provided in the District during the year.

Staff.

The Staff consisted of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, one qualified assistant and one clerk until November, when the clerk joined H.M. Forces and the vacancy was not filled by the end of the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.Water.

The Public supplies were derived from the Council's Waterworks at Thaxted and Dunmow, and in the case of the Parishes of Great and Little Hallingbury and Hatfield Broad Oak (including Hatfield Heath) from the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company.

In all 90 new connections were made to the water mains in the course of the year.

The water is satisfactory in quality and quantity for main supplies, but local failures of shallow wells occurred in parts of the Parishes of Great Dunmow, High Easter and Little Bardfield.

Water is chlorinated at the works, and no evidence of any contamination occurred during the year.

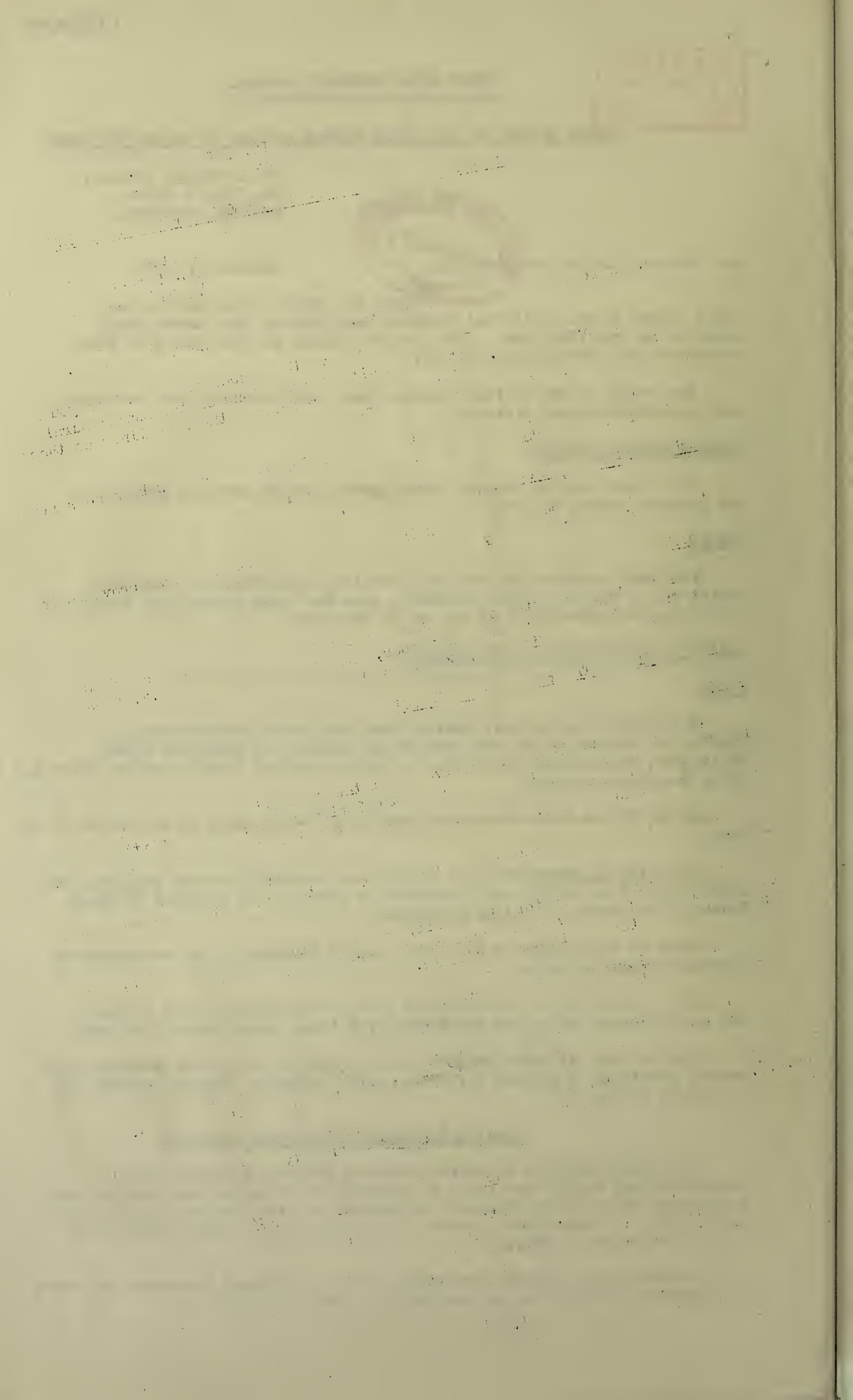
70% of dwellings are connected to piped water supply direct to house, and approximately 74% of the population draw their supply direct from main.

Samples from all three sources were analysed by the County Bacteriologist Dr.E.V. Suckling, at regular intervals during the year. Typical reports are as follows :-

Thaxted Waterworks - Raw Water 30.10.44.

This sample contains a distinct trace of iron which causes faint opalescence and slight deposit. The water is very hard in character to such a degree as to be disadvantageous for washing and other purposes although not unwholesome. It contains no excess of salinity and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are normal and subject to the customary treatment, the water is considered suitable for the purposes of a public supply.



Thaxted Waterworks - Treated Water 4.9.44.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright, containing only a few particles of suspended matter. The water is very hard in character, but contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply, but the hardness will, of course, be disadvantageous for washing and other purposes.

Dunmow Waterworks - Raw Water 7.11.44.

This sample contains a small trace of suspended matter, but is not unduly turbid. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are normal and consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes apart from the objection that it is not clear and bright in appearance.

Dunmow Waterworks - Treated Water 14.9.44.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

It is considered an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

Herts & Essex Waterworks Co. 19.12.44.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance. It is neutral in reaction, hard in character though not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral constituents in solution and no metals apart from a trace of iron.

The water is of very good organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. It is considered pure and wholesome and suitable for the purpose of a public supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Great Dunmow Sewage Works.

These works continued to be overloaded and in consequence failed to yield satisfactory results. The 4 samples taken during the year gave the following results - 4 unsatisfactory.

Thaxted Sewage Works.

The works continued to give concern during the year. Considerable improvement was effected: 3 samples were taken. 2 were unsatisfactory and 1 satisfactory.

Felstead Sewage Works.

The improvement noted during previous years continued in 1944 to a less marked degree, and out of 4 samples taken, 2 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works.

The 3 samples taken this year yielded very satisfactory results.

Hatfield Broad Oak Sewage Works.

The 4 samples taken this year yielded satisfactory results.



1. The first part of the report

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It describes the political, economic and social conditions. It also mentions the results of the recent elections and the government's policy.

The second part of the report deals with the foreign relations of the country. It describes the country's relations with its neighbors and with the major powers of the world.

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## Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the combined system of refuse and salvage collection continued in 1944.

## Sanitary Inspection.

Inspection on complaint was made as promptly as circumstances permitted.

## HOUSING.

Inspections of property, Private and Requisitioned, were carried out and repairs executed to keep the property up to a reasonable war-time standard.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk.

Inspections of all premises in the district engaged in the production of milk were carried out. In 1944, 192 samples were taken and submitted to Meth.Blue Reductate Test, Coliform Test and Plate Count. 184 satisfied Meth.Blue Reductate Test, 180 satisfied Coliform Test and 185 satisfied Plate Count. 158 samples were submitted to Biological examination for Tubercle, of which 151 were satisfactory. 7 tests were inconclusive owing to premature deaths of the guinea pig, but a later test proved satisfactory.

### Meat.

Inspection of Meat was carried out in butchers' shops and other premises where it is exposed for sale. There is no slaughtering in this area.

The slaughterhouse at the Dunmow Bacon Factory continues to operate with the same arrangements as before with regard to meat inspection whereby no call is made on the Council's staff for this work.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1944 :-

Scarlet Fever.	23.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2
Whooping Cough	136.	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Measles.	36.	Erysipelas.	2
Pneumonia	7.	Dysentery.	5

Two deaths occurred from Infectious Disease, one from Diphtheria and one from Measles.

### Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Sessions for Diphtheria Immunisation were held each month at the Child Welfare Centre, Dunmow, and at Clinics throughout the District when necessary.

The total number of children immunised at the end of 1944, was as follows :-

Children aged 5 - 15 (i.e., school children)	2,385.
Children under 5 years (i.e., pre-school children)	2,213.

These figures represent approximately 96% and 74% of the child population of the district in the respective age-groups.

### Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 107, and was made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
24.	27.	25.	31.

27 new cases were notified during 1944 and were made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
4.	8.	3.	12.

There were 8 deaths of patients on the Tuberculosis Register in 1944.



EVACUATION.

There was no organised evacuation during the year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. A. HALL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

